



Biographical Sketch

Bennie I. Osburn
Dean Emeritus, School of Veterinary Medicine
University of California, Davis

Bennie I. Osburn served as Dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California, Davis, from 1996 - 2011. In Dr. Osburn's scientific career, he has emphasized the health and welfare of food animals, particularly cattle and sheep. He has been involved in key discoveries about food animal viruses including the bluetongue virus and border disease virus, developmental immunology, congenital infections and food safety. Dr. Osburn has produced more than 280 peer-reviewed publications.

Dr. Osburn earned his BS and the DVM degrees at Kansas State University. He received his PhD in Comparative Pathology from the University of California, Davis in 1965. From 1964 to 1968 he served on the faculty at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Oklahoma State University and was a post-doctoral fellow at Johns Hopkins University Medical School from 1968 to 1970. He became a member of the faculty in the School of Veterinary Medicine, UC Davis in 1970. Dr. Osburn served as head of the Infectious Disease and Immunology Unit at the California Regional Primate Research Center from 1975 to 1983, Principal Investigator of the California National Primate Research Center from 1996 - 2003; Interim Director of the Veterinary Medical Teaching and Research Center from 1986-1990 and as Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Programs from 1975 – 1996. He served as Interim Executive Director of the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges from November 2011 to May 2012. Currently he is PI of two grants from the Department of Homeland Security and the Food and Drug Administration.

Dr. Osburn is a Distinguished Member of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists, a Distinguished Veterinary Immunologist of the American Association of Veterinary Immunologists, and a Distinguished Practitioner in the National Academy of Practice in Veterinary Medicine. Among the many other awards he has received are the Kansas State University, College of Veterinary Medicine, 2004 Distinguished Alumnus Award; the 2004 K. F. Meyer-James H. Steele Gold Head Cane Award from the American Veterinary Epidemiology Society; and the 1996 UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine's Alumni Achievement Award. He presented at the D.C. Blood Oration, Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Melbourne, Australia.

Dr. Osburn is active in many professional organizations and served as president of the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) for two years. He has served as Chair of the AAVMC Research Committee and served as chair of the Government Affairs Committee of the AAVMC; served as a member of the Standards Committee of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA); and he served as co-chair of the AAVMC/AVMA

Joint Committee. He has earned membership in the Johns Hopkins Society of Scholars and is a fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He was a past member and Chair of the AVMA's Council on Research and was a member of the Legislative Advisory Committee (2005-2010). He is a diplomat and past president of both the American College of Veterinary Pathologists (1982) and the American Association of Veterinary Immunologists (1982), Past President of the Conference for Research Workers in Animal Diseases (1984) and is an honorary diplomat of the American Veterinarian Epidemiology Society. He served as Chair of the U. S. Department of Agriculture's, Agricultural Biotechnology Research Advisory Committee from 1988-91. Dr. Osburn was a member of the National Academy of Sciences Study on Veterinary Workforce, and currently serves on the Academy's AFRI panel reviewing the USDA's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) program.

Dr. Osburn chaired two international symposia on bluetongue virus in 1984 and 1992 which resulted in two comprehensive proceedings and guidelines for regulatory purposes.

During Dr. Osburn's tenure as AAVMC president, a strategic plan was undertaken to address veterinary workforce needs by launching a legislative initiative, the Veterinary Workforce Expansion Act, which will provide a competitive grants program to build infrastructure dedicated to increasing human resource capacity in veterinary public practice. This initiative has resulted in four pieces of legislation that are of importance to veterinary medicine: 1) the Centers of Excellence; 2) the Veterinary School Grants Program; 3) the National Veterinary Medical Loan Repayment Program; and 4) Agricultural Biosecurity. He was instrumental in the creation of an AAVMC task force which was appointed to coordinate with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and the U.S. military to aid in the rebuilding of veterinary colleges in Afghanistan and Iraq. He initiated and implemented a Public Health Task Force that has increased the number of post graduate public health programs from 4 to 22 in the existing veterinary colleges. He chaired the North American Veterinary Medical Educational Consortium, an initiative to bring about comprehensive innovation in veterinary education to meet society's needs. NAVMEC deliberations resulted in the NAVMEC report "Roadmap for Veterinary Medical Education in the 21st Century: Responsive, Collaborative, Flexible."

Under Dr. Osburn's guidance, the school established centers of excellence in comparative medicine, vectorborne disease, wildlife health, equine analytical chemistry, One Health, FDA's Western Center for Food Safety and other programs. He promoted comprehensive veterinary training programs to support veterinary students interested in research and academic careers. He helped institute a DVM/PhD program for veterinary students, a Masters of Public Health (MPH) degree program, the Students Training in Advanced Research (STAR) summer program, and an endowed Graduate Student Support Program (GSSP). During his deanship the DVM student and resident numbers increased and a K-12 outreach program was developed to encourage the next generation of veterinarians. Dr. Osburn was instrumental in the establishment of the Wildlife Health Center, the Western Institute for Food Safety and Security, the UC Veterinary Medical Center-San Diego and the Sea Doc Society on Orcas Island, Washington. He has worked to help the school initiate \$210 million in new building programs, raised more than \$200 million in private support, and increased the annual research budget 100% to \$80 million.